

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3901

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJECT: CHIEF JUSTICE LASKIN NAMED ADMINISTRATOR OF GOC

1. AT THE REQUEST OF GOVERNOR GENERAL JULES LEGER, STILL CONVALESCING FOLLOWING HIS JUNE 8 STROKE, CHIEF JUSTICE BORA LASKIN WAS SWORN IN JULY 2 AS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA. OFFICIALS ON GOVERNOR GENERAL'S STAFF DESCRIBE HIS PROGRESS AS GOOD AND HIS MIND ALERT, ALTHOUGH HE STILL SUFFERS SOME PARALYSIS AND SLURRING OF SPEECH. CONTRARY TO EARLIER REPORTS, IT NOW APPEARS HE MAY EVENTUALLY BE ABLE TO RESUME FULL FUNCTIONS OF OFFICE, ALTHOUGH TIMING IS UNCERTAIN.

2. AS ADMINISTRATOR, LASKIN ASSUMES ALL POWERS OF QUEEN'S REPRESENTATIVE IN CANADA, INCLUDING AUTHORITY TO SUMMON OR DISSOLVE PARLIAMENT, CALL ELECTIONS, AND, PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANTLY, TO ASK ONE OR ANOTHER PARTY LEADER TO ATTEMPT TO FORM GOVERNMENT.

3. BIO DATA. LASKIN WAS BORN 1912 IN FORT WILLIAM, ONTARIO, EDUCATED AT UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, OSGOODE HALL LAW SCHOOL, AND HARVARD LAW SCHOOL (LLM 1937). PROFESSOR AT TORONTO AND OSGOODE HALL 1940-49. MEMBER SUPREME COURT OF ONTARIO 1965-70. MEMBER
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SUPREME COURT OF CANADA 1970. CHIEF JUSTICE DECEMBER

1973. MARRIED PEGGY TENENBAUM 1938. TWO CHILDREN.

4. LASKIN IS ONE OF CANADA'S BEST KNOWN LEGAL
THEORISTS, PARTICULARLY FOR EFFORTS IN LABOR LAW
AND LABOR ARBITRATION, AND IS AUTHOR OF NUMEROUS BOOKS
AND ARTICLES ON LABOR AND CONSTITUTIONAL LAW. WHILE
THERE WAS SCATTERED CRITICISM OF HIS APPOINTMENT,
PARTICULARLY SINCE HE WAS ADVANCED OVER MORE SENIOR
JUSTICES, IT WAS GENERALLY POPULAR, AND HE IS HIGHLY
REGARDED AS A WISE AND HUMANE JUSTICE.
PORTER

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